

Submitter: Heather Edgerton  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4074

I oppose HB 4074! And let me tell you why.

As a dedicated nurse of 11 years, I can attest that safe patient care in the hospital setting ultimately comes down to nursing care. Patients and families see and know this. Doctors know this. Nurses know this. But don't let my assertion, based on my decade of hospital nursing work, stand on its own. Research indicates that each additional patient added to a nurse's workload increases the risk of mortality for those patients by 7%, and raises the likelihood of adverse events like falls, infections, and medication errors.

Hospitals will try to save money by rationing nursing care and reducing nurse ratios. However, research also "indicates that higher levels of implicit rationing of nursing care are associated with significant decreases in patient satisfaction and significant increases in the odds of nurse-reported medication errors, bloodstream infections, and pneumonia" (NIH National Library of Medicine <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10787575/>).

HB 4074 is dangerous in that it gives hospitals more power to regulate nurse staffing ratios, rather than being held accountable to the law to provide safe nursing ratios. For our communities, our people, and for our nurses, please do not pass this bill.